REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the *Office Action* dated April 20, 2007. At the time of the *Office Action*, Claims 1-26 were pending, of which, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-26. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 16, and 20 and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejected Claims 16-23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended claim 16 in a fashion whereby the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 has been rendered moot. Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claims 16-23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects claims 1-5, 9, 11 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,623,600 to Ji et al. (*"Ji"*). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons stated below.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method for maintaining computer security wherein a signature file containing information about known system vulnerabilities is provided and an incoming message from at least one client computer is received. The received incoming message is compared with the signature file to determine whether the incoming message is malicious, and incoming messages that are determined to be malicious are blocked from reaching a web server. Similar to Claim 1, Claims 9 and 16 contain limitations generally directed to a signature file containing information about known system vulnerabilities and comparing a received incoming message with the signature file to determine whether the incoming message is malicious. *Ji* does not disclose each of these limitations.

For example, Claim 1 discloses, "comparing the received incoming message with the signature file" wherein the signature file "contain[s] information about known system vulnerabilities." The Examiner contends that *Ji* discloses these limitations and supports his

rejection of Claim 1 by pointing to sections of *Ji* which recite, "the temporarily stored file is analyzed to determine if it contains viruses. . . . For example, a program the [sic] performs a version of signature scanning virus detection . . . ." See Office Action, page 3 (citing *Ji*, col. 7, lines 51-65). Applicant respectfully contends that the cited portions of *Ji* do not support the Examiner's rejection because, among other things, merely reciting an example situation where "a program . . . performs a version of signature scanning virus detection" does not disclose "comparing the received incoming message" with "a signature file containing information about known system vulnerabilities" as required by Claim 1.

Moreover, *Ji* directly recites, "[a] virus detection method, known as signature scanning, scans program code that is being copied onto the system. The system searches for know patterns of program code used for viruses." See *Ji*, col. 2, lines 1-5. Clearly, *Ji*'s "signature scanning" which "searches for know patterns of program code used for viruses" does not disclose "comparing the received incoming message" with "a signature file containing information about known system vulnerabilities" as required by Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant contends that Claim 1 and all claims depending either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, for reasons similar to those discussed with respect to Claim 1, Applicant further contend that Claims 9 and 16 and all claims depending either directly or indirectly from Claims 9 or 16 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 6-8, 12-14 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Ji* in view of US Patent No. 7,080,000 to Cambridge ("*Cambridge*"). The Examiner further rejects Claims 10 and 15 as being unpatentable over *Ji* in further view of information that the Examiner contends would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Applicant respectfully contends that the deficiencies of *Ji* with respect to Claims 1, 9, and 16 are not accounted for by the teachings of *Cambridge*, the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, or any combination thereof. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully contends that all Claims are in condition for allowance.
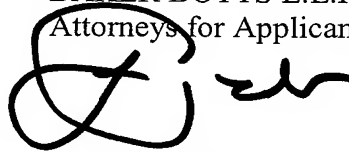
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6655.

No additional fee is believed to be due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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